

Please amend the claims as follows:

B₁ 1 (Amended). An isolated antimicrobial peptide, named myticin, from a bivalve mollusk, having a molecular mass of approximately 4.5 kDa; a pI of approximately 8.7; and 8 cysteine residues; wherein said peptide further comprises the following sequence:

HX₁HX₂CTS₃YX₃CX₄KFCGTAX₅CTX₆YX₇CRX₈LHX₉GKX₁₀CX₁₁CX₁₂HCSR

in which: X₁ = P or S, X₂ = V or A, X₃ = Y or W, X₄ = S or G, X₅ = S or G, X₆ = R or H, X₇ = G or L, X₈ = N or V, X₉ = R or P, X₁₀ = L or M, X₁₁ = F or A, and X₁₂ = L or V (SEQ ID NO: 5).

3 (Twice Amended). The peptide of claim 1, chosen from the group consisting of:

B₂ - a peptide comprising the following sequence (Ia):

HSHACTSYWCGKFCGTASCTHYLCRVLHPGKMCACVHCSR (Ia) (SEQ ID NO: 6)

- a peptide comprising the following sequence (Ib):

HPHVCTSYCYCSKFCGTAGCTRYGCRNLHRGKLCFCLHCSR (Ib) (SEQ ID NO: 7).

B₃ 11. A nucleic acid comprising a sequence which encodes a peptide as claimed in claim 1.

B₄ 18. A method of treating a bacterial, fungal or parasitic infection in a patient or animal comprising administration of an amount of the myticin antimicrobial peptide of claim 1 effective to inhibit further growth of the infectious organism.